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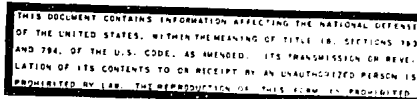
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SOURCE KgU PressePLANT WORKERS PROTEST REARREST OF STRIKE LEADER

The following item appeared in the weekly newsletter published by the KgU (Fighting Group Against Inhumanity), an anti-Communist organization in West Berlin.

As a result of vigorous protests on the part of the workers of the Quedlinburg VEB (People-Owned) Measuring Instrument Plant, the Halle Bezirk Public Prosecutor's Office on 16 July 1953 released Vogler (fnu), a strike leader in the plant, who had been arrested on 18 June 1953.

When Vogler returned to his job at the plant, he was greeted with stormy applause, flowers, and gifts. A collection which had been made for him yielded 6,000 East marks (collections for Communist purposes never have amounted to more than 100 East marks). When he returned to his residence in Thale, he was also received enthusiastically by the populace.

Around 2200 hours, two People's Policemen appeared at Vogler's home and requested that he accompany them for the purpose of signing a report. Vogler at first refused, but the men very courteously assured him that nothing would happen to him and that he would be detained only a short while. Vogler went with them, and has not yet returned.

On the following day, when Vogler did not report to work and his co-workers discovered the insidious manner in which he had been arrested, all workers in the plant went on a sit-down strike and demanded his immediate release. Toward noon of the same day, Soviet Army personnel and a People's Police unit appeared at the plant and told the workers that unless they resumed their work, 20 hostages would be shot. Confronted with this threat, the plant personnel made a pretense of resuming their work; the daily quota was fulfilled only about

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5 percent. The workers of the VEB Mewa Works, in Quedlinburg (under the Administration of People-Owned Enterprises for the Metal Goods Industry), joined in this "work-slowdown strike."

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